Reviews of
the Swedish colony in Bayate, Cuba

of persons who resided there or visited the site

A translation of

Omdömen om
den Svenska kolonien i Bayate, Cuba

af personer, som bosatt sig där eller besökt platsen

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Translator's Note

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Daniel Eugene Anderson
Lake Grove, Oregon, 1 January 2026

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Göteborg 1908
Aktiebolaget Götatryckeriet

Bayate, Cuba, 14 October 1907.

“Cuba is the most glorious country that human eyes have ever seen,” said Columbus. How has nature not here squandered her riches? Its wonderfully rich soil, pleasant climate, and advantageous location make it well deserving of the above-mentioned statement. During the centuries that have passed since its discovery, the Cubans have made little use of these, the rich gifts of a gentle nature, which only require enterprise and modern working methods to make Cuba one of the richest countries in the world.

Among the nations that have awakened to the realization of Cuba's immense natural advantages, its nearest neighbor, Uncle Sam, comes first. Many millions of dollars of American capital are already invested here in land and industrial enterprises.

We Swedes too can boast of contributing to a considerable extent to Cuba's development. In the short time that our Swedish colony has existed here in Bayate, it must be admitted that it has taken great steps in the right direction. Whichever direction one goes inland, the eye is greeted by swaying sugar fields, cassava and banana plantations, “orange groves,” apiaries, pastures, chicken farms, etc. The first question that confronts a settler in Cuba is: What shall I do to make a living? He certainly has a rich choice among the many kinds of products that grow and thrive here with surprising luxuriance. Hard work and care in combination with the right natural conditions — favorable soil, etc. — make success undoubted, whatever the choice.

As everyone knows, different kinds of crops require different kinds of soil. This must also be taken into consideration here. For example: Sugarcane and tobacco, two of Cuba's main products, require completely different soils, and to plant tobacco on soil best suited to sugarcane would be a waste of time and a waste of money.

Cattle, pigs, and chickens are three important factors in Cuba's rural economy. When, during the long drought last winter, cattle in

hundreds died of hunger and thirst in other parts of the country, these were “rolling barrels.” The Parana and Guinea grasses, the most important of Cuba's fodder plants, need such rich soil as we have in order to thrive best. Should one, during one's travels here in the Bayate tract, feel inclined to take a shortcut through one of these grass fields, it is wise to go around it and wriggle through the forest, however impenetrable it may seem, for the grass fields are even more impenetrable.

Pigs are raised here in the forest, where they feed on palm nuts and many other kinds of produce that fall from the trees. They multiply incredibly quickly, and pig breeding is particularly profitable for those who have a large piece of land where they can run wild. Chicken breeding is an important secondary industry. On every farm there is always a quantity of refuse which the chickens eagerly seek out, but which would otherwise go to waste. Here there is always a strong demand for both live chickens and eggs. The former sell for 75 cents apiece or more, and the latter for 25 cents a dozen or more.

“Corn” and “broom corn” yield two crops a year. The former varies in price from 75 cents to $1.50 per bushel, and broom corn is now being offered for 7 cents per pound.

Root vegetables grow here in many varieties, such as sweet potatoes, cassava, yams, malanga, etc. Two varieties of cassava are grown, a sweet and a bitter one. Starch is prepared from the bitter one, which is also very profitable by Cuban methods. Cassava and malanga are very suitable as shade for young coffee and cocoa plantations, and pay a large part of the cost of the latter's maintenance. Anyone who has a banana plantation would do well to plant coffee bushes or cocoa trees there as well. This takes little time, and it does not cost much to maintain the plantation, but in a few years, when these begin to bear fruit, the little work they have cost will be many times over.

A healthy climate, rich soil, and good communications are qualities that a land seeker places the greatest importance on. All these advantages are offered here to every settler, and it would be difficult to find, whether in the United States, Cuba, or elsewhere, a new settlement with such good prospects as this at Bayate. There is still good and well-situated land to be bought here at a cheap price.

Yours sincerely,
Arthur Engström.

El Campo, Tex., Jan. 1906.

As I just returned from a trip to Cuba, I want to describe how it appeared to a Southerner. I had the privilege of having in my company another Southerner, Mr. Severin Nordin of El Campo, Tex. I had imagined that a Southerner would be able to judge Cuba more soberly, and this was the case. In comparison with Texas, which is so popular and praised by Swedes, Mr. Nordin, who is an experienced and sensible man, gave Cuba the upper hand. In Texas we are dependent on a few agricultural products, such as cotton, rice, etc., but in Cuba such a diverse range of products grow. It is an astonishing plant world that strikes everyone who comes there with astonishment. It grows, grows, only grows day and night all year round. What is it that grows? To enumerate everything in a hurry is not so easy. Intelligent farmers from all over have already described the wonderful vegetation. In conversations with Americans, whom one meets everywhere during trips on the island, one hears only praise. One told me that it can never be a mistake to buy land in Cuba now, for it cannot but rise in price enormously. I had the privilege of having in my company between Havana and New York Americans from Isla de Pinos, who have lived there for many years. They could not praise enough the climate, the soil, the palm and orange groves, the healthy mineral water, and the beautiful marble that occurs there in large quantities. Isla de Pinos is, however, much poorer in terms of soil than the Santiago province. During a trip on the island, one clearly notices from the vegetation how the country gets better and better to the east. I particularly noticed all the sugar cane fields. I have seen how huge they grow here in South Texas, and I know that it pays to grow sugarcane like nothing else, but here the cane dies down every winter, but in Cuba an American told me that he had seen a sugarcane field that had stood for 40 years. This sounds strange, but one must consider that only a constant summer and fertile soil can accomplish such a thing.

I have been far and wide in this country and have seen both north and south, but this trip to Cuba was the most instructive, the most interesting I have ever made. It was healthful in the highest degree. For those who suffer from cold in the body, it is an excellent medicine to warm their frozen limbs in the heat that the Lord himself has prepared. The sun shines in Cuba warm, not scorching, the evening is mildly cool, the night is cool. Cuba has an excellent location, just a little south of the northern tropic. Its width is small, and

this means that the sea completely dominates the island as far as climate is concerned. And storms? Cuba is protected by a long mountain range that runs along the island, and the storms follow the Gulf Stream.

The colony at Bayate is progressing with great speed. Swedes are streaming there from all directions, so that anyone who wants to join must hurry. Many of our prominent men had already secured a piece of land. There is one thing I particularly want to emphasize, and that is that everyone who came to the colony was pleased, very pleased. An older, experienced man from New England often said: “I am so glad I came here.”

Yes, a trip to Cuba is an undertaking that one never regrets.

Respectfully,
A. J. Rydén.

Asked to give my opinion on Cuba and the conditions there, I will only say that in my opinion Cuba has a great future for itself, both for the capitalist and the worker.

I came to Cuba on 11 July 1905, with the intention of buying a piece of land, which I have done. In this province the country seems attractive to a stranger, for it is covered everywhere with thick forest. Here and there you will find a small opening in the forest where some Cuban has settled. His wants are small; a small hut with a roof of palm leaves is all the shelter he needs. On his little patch of land he cultivates only the most necessary for his subsistence. The soil here is extraordinarily fertile, and one wonders why it is not under the plow and harrow. If you turn to a Cuban with an inquiry about this, you will get the following answer: Since 1868 this province has been the victim of a devastating war, more than half the population has perished and the rest is impoverished. The land rarely belongs to the Cuban who lives there, but either to a wealthy city dweller or to some American company. The Americans have bought the land here on speculation. Then they sell it in small lots and in this way colonies arise. Here there are large communities of Americans, Germans and Finns. The Swedes have also known to take advantage of this opportunity, and here in Bayate there are now about 80 of us. Many others have bought land here, and in the winter we are waiting for them here with their families. This colony of ours is different from the American ones in that it is not built by one man's money and in the interest of an individual matador, but we work

all for the same goal — freedom and prosperity for us and our children, and here we believe is the place to reach this ideal.

I hope that some of our older farmers here will mention something about the productive capacity of the country. In conclusion of my statement, I want to mention that I am the shepherd and ruler of nearly 300 colonies of bees — and if all goes as in the time of King Solomon, that many queens exercise wisdom and prudence, then I will be both wise and rich, for each hive yields from 3 to 5 dollars worth of honey and wax annually.

That man is wise. who listens to good advice, therefore come here, while there is some land left to be had, that is my most earnest wish.

Bayate, Cuba, 7 July 1906.

Respectfully
J. A. Nyström.

Bayate, Cuba, 9 July 1906.

I traveled with my wife and six children from my home in Stuguns parish in Jamtland in 1893 to the promised land in the west, where, in my opinion, one could support oneself and one's family more easily than in old Sweden. In this respect I was not mistaken either, but to my disappointment I found that the winters were, if possible, even more difficult in Minn. than in Jamtland. In Cambridge, Minn., I lived for 12 years and owned a fine farm of 228 acres. The soil there was of good quality and everything else in good condition. My family increased, so that there were 12 members in the family. Ever since childhood I have worked hard and froze a lot, and of late my health has been getting worse every year. I myself suffered greatly from rheumatism and there was always someone sick in the family in the winter. Doctor and medical bills became quite expensive, and besides, one cannot exist in a country with cold winters without having expensive houses and warm clothing; it is also necessary to collect winter supplies for both people and livestock. This, in combination with high taxes and many other expenses, induced me to leave the “States” and seek my fortune here in Cuba. I had heard that a Swedish colony was being formed in Bayate, and thither I steered my cart. I have traveled a great deal both in Sweden and America, but I have never seen a better country than what is here. On the 16th of Nov. I moved here with my family, and

I am now in possession of 160 acres of land here. Here the cattle can go out all the year round, you can plant whenever you like and some things are harvested three or four times a year. Everything that is planted gives a rich return with little work and finds a good market. Sugar cane is the chief product of Cuba and gives a greater return here than elsewhere.

Some members of the Swedish colony in Bayate.

I have now been here 8 months and am happy to admit my satisfaction in every respect. Since I came here I have not had to spend a cent on either doctor or medicine, for we have all been healthy and look to the future with pleasure.

My ability is insufficient to describe in detail the immense natural wealth of Cuba, but I dare say that this is the right place for both families and workers who are willing to work for their living.

Should anyone reading this wish to have any information about our colony, I will conscientiously and to the best of my ability answer all inquiries.

Hoping to meet many of my countrymen here in Bayate in the near future, I

respectfully submit,
J. P. Johnson.

Bayate, Cuba, 13 Nov. 1907.

As I am one of the longest-stayers in the colony, it being nearly 2 1/2 years since I first came here, I have had the best opportunities to see the work that has been going on and to observe the experiences that have been made. I am not a farmer myself, although I own 140 acres of land in the colony, but I have a sawmill business, and in consequence of my business I have often traveled about and seen conditions in other places, and from this I dare say that there is no place so rich in vegetation as here in this colony. All who have now already got a few pieces free from forest and begun to plant on them say that it already pays much better here than in the States, and yet modern agricultural implements are still lacking. When the colony becomes fully developed, with fields everywhere and good roads, one can get a small idea of the results that can be achieved. One can, for example, grow corn, which is as easy to grow here as in the States, and get 3 harvests a year, each harvest as large as anywhere in the States, but the price here is more than double, and thus you get six times as much income from this product as in the States. In addition, we can sell the entire corn crop here, since in the States you have to use it to feed the cattle in the winter. I do not, however, want to say that corn is the best thing you can grow. There are many other things that give many times greater returns. For example, you can harvest tobacco for $1,000.00 a year from an acre, and vegetables the same if they are well grown. Sometimes you can get up to a dollar for a head of cabbage, and other products innumerable command high prices.

During the 12 years I lived in Minnesota, I saw land go up in price from $10.00 to $50.00 per acre. When I came here

2 1/2 years ago the land here sold for from $20.00 to $25.00 per acre, this fall pieces have been sold here for $50.00 per acre, and I expect it will soon go up to $250.00. In Iowa and Illinois you have to pay $150.00 per acre for land that only produces one crop a year. Why should not equally good land or better land here, producing three crops a year and with higher prices on all products, be worth $250.00 per acre? I do not even think it will stop there. When everything is settled here, and Cuba is annexed to the United States, the small quantity of this good land that is here cannot be bought for $500.00 per acre.

The Bayate colony and the town of Bayate have started on a good basis, and its growth will be steadily advancing, and in all respects. We have two trading posts here. One was built a little over a year ago, 20 x 40 feet, but business increased so that it had to be enlarged to the same extent, which is now in progress. The sawmill with the planing machine is in full operation every day and the demand for lumber is great. In addition, we have a cannery here, organized with sufficient capital, for the preservation of fruits and vegetables. A starch factory will also be established by the winter for the manufacture of starch from cassava. A broom factory will also be set up in time, so that much of what is grown will find a good market here. Add to that the fact that the land is tax-free, and no glasses are needed to see the advantages we have here. Come here and see for yourself and judge the conditions here and you will find it better than you ever dared to believe, I say.

J. P. Johnson.

Bayate, Cuba, 6 July 1906.

After nearly a year's stay in Cuba, I must make some comparisons with what I have seen and experienced during 25 years' stay in the United States and Canada. I worked first in the coal mines in Pennsylvania, then as an agricultural, railroad and forestry worker, and finally as a farmer, first in Minnesota and then in Canada. I left Minnesota mainly because of the cold winters, for I suffered from rheumatism. I thought that western Canada would be better, but I was wrong. After 10 years' stay there, I was unable to work, and then traveled to British Columbia and Washington to seek a place with a better climate. There the climate was better, but

the country very expensive and usually of very poor quality. Later I saw a letter from Dr. A. Lind, in which he described Cuba. All said and done, I dared the attempt, went there and found everything to be in accordance with the description. There I found just what I had been looking for so long, a good climate; the soil was the best I had ever seen and the vegetation incredible. I decided to move here with my family, consisting of my wife and six children. We have all been in good health since we came here. It is certainly hot here, but not worse than one feels good about it. Before I came here, I had been unable to work for two years, but since then I have worked every day. Here I have 188 acres of land, for which I paid 25 dollars per acre. I have been mostly engaged in stock raising since I came here and have 5 horses, 1 Maltese Jack (breeding stock), 13 cattle, 25 pigs and 60 chickens. All seem to be doing well. The pigs feed themselves on palm nuts and other fruits and are in good shape to be fattened when the time comes. Horses and cattle do well on green fodder all the year round. Sugar cane, corn and everything else grows, so that one cannot form an idea of it without seeing it. I myself am very grateful to the Swedish Land and Colonization Company of Minneapolis, Minn., for what they have done for me and can in good conscience recommend them as honest and reliable, quite unlike most land agents in the United States and Cuba.

Charles Lindall.

Bayate, Cuba, 12 October 1907.

I have now lived here for 2 years and have spent three summers in Cuba, and I must say that I never thought it was so good to be in a warm climate, and now it amazes me a lot that people have so much dislike for Cuba. But the reason is of course that they do not know that it is as healthy and good as it is. It is a pity that more Swedes do not come here. Americans and people of other nations come here and take all the best land into possession. Here in our colony, however, land has been sold exclusively to Swedes and we are here a fairly defensible Swedish society.

The advantages in Cuba, however, do not consist exclusively in the climate. Even in an economic sense, it is probably as good here as in any other place. Chickens thrive excellently here. One can raise chickens all year round, without even a hen house. We have bred

several hundred since we came here, and have about a hundred at the time. When they are full grown we never get less than 75 cents apiece for them. Hog raising also gives good results. Last year I bought 16 pigs and now I have about 150, who have had no other food or care than what they have taken for themselves in a pasture. For hogs we get from 8 to 10 cents per pound, live weight. Last summer I tried a little broom corn, and it seems to be doing well. Since the little I planted came out, you can get about 1,500 pounds of broom rice and 2,500 pounds of seed on an acre. When rice is worth 7 cents a pound, this is not so bad. Good land is still to be bought here near the railroad station for from $25.00 to $30.00 per acre, and we are always glad to welcome countrymen down here.

Yours sincerely,
Charles Lindall.

Bayate, Cuba, Sept. 1907.

There is so much written in the newspapers about the Cuban rebellion, cholera, etc. Allow me to give a few details regarding conditions here. We find the people peaceful and quite harmless. It is a well-known fact that there is a certain amount of hustling for office in political circles, both here and elsewhere, but it is more publicized here in consequence of the political dispute of a year ago. Otherwise, as far as disturbances are concerned, there is more of the sort in a small town in Minnesota, when the lumbermen come in in the spring, in one day than I have yet seen in Cuba during the 2 1/2 years I have been here. Besides, it is only a matter of time before Cuba becomes a part of the U. S. As for the climate, it is undoubtedly unsurpassed. High, clean air, even temperature, and if any case of fever has occurred, it is in some coastal town. That the soil is rich around this place is well known. But that an orange tree, not 15 months old, is already loaded with ripe fruit, is probably exceptional; other orange trees, 28 months old, now have more than two boxes of fruit. Fruit merchants from Florida, who have planted the trees here, say that it takes the trees in Fla. 4 or 5 years to give the said results. Most Cubans who live in the country do not own the land they cultivate, and therefore in most cases they cultivate only a small plot. But there is no real poverty among the rural population of Cuba,

for they plant in most cases the bare necessities, so even if they have no money they could live comparatively well. But here are also Cubans who have beautiful plantations. The Swedes in general are making good progress in Cuba, but one naturally finds exceptions even among them, although comparatively few. That almost everything that can be produced here, such as corn, sweetpotatoes, cassava, fruit and vegetables, is paid high, is, as I have said, due to the fact that such a small area of Cuba's land is under cultivation. Horses, cattle, pigs and chickens also command high prices, although it is much cheaper to feed them here than in the States, at least in the northern states. Here in Bayate we now have a fairly orderly society. If any countrymen are thinking of enjoying the winter months in the south, be assured that you are welcome from the countrymen here at Bayate.

F. J. Peterson.

Cambridge, Minn., Nov. 1907.

I have been to Bayate, Cuba, two winters, and am going there again in a few days. I have bought 80 acres of land there, and from my experience I expect better days. You can get your fill there with much less work than here. The rich land and the delightful climate are a pleasant exchange for sandbanks and snowdrifts. Once you get going, you can sit and enjoy life there, with grass and cattle growing all the year round, and the market price of all farm produce is double what it is here in Minnesota.

I have not, however, taken up all the land at Bayate, and if any of my kind should wish to make a visit there this winter instead of buying furs, there are probably a few pieces left, and I am sure no one will regret such a trip. You will soon be able to sit under the shade of your own fig tree.

S. P. Anderson.

Bayate, Cuba, 14 October 1907.

Fully convinced of the great advantages the Swedish colony of Bayate offers to seekers of land, we can in good conscience recommend it to our countrymen.

Respectfully,

Oscar Johnson. E. Gustafson

Stanchfield, Minn., Nov. 1907.

During my stay in Bayate, Cuba, from 16 Nov. 1905, to the end of February 1906, I made the following observations:

The climate is the most agreeable one could wish for. I have lived in the Northwest for over 35 years, but have never experienced such a delightful winter as I did in Cuba. With an even temperature, comfortable nights free from flies and vermin, good vegetation all the year round, and good means of communication, not much is left to be desired. A pleasant summer heat could be enjoyed there in the month of January, and corn and vegetables were then ready to be harvested, and other products were planted in their place.

Cuba is at present only at the beginning of a bright future, for it is so situated that, besides the great market of the United States, which will depend on Cuba for vegetables for six months of the year, it can also take advantage of the great world traffic for the sale of its fruit and winter produce, which commands high prices. If a straight line is drawn from New York to the place where the Panama Canal is now being dug, this line cuts through the eastern end of Cuba, where two great ports are situated, Antilla on the north coast and Santiago on the south. These are the largest and deepest ports in Cuba, and have direct railway communication between them. This railway runs through the rich Cauto Valley district, which contains the most fertile land in Cuba. It is in this district and on this railroad that the Swedish colony at Bayate is situated, and I would advise those who are thinking of going to Cuba to first visit this place before buying any land elsewhere. A trip to Cuba is worth more than it costs, even if one does not buy any land there.

I am much troubled by asthma and catarrh during the winters, especially in changeable weather, but during the time I was in Cuba I worked almost every day and felt strong. I believe that if I had been able to remain there a longer time my health would have been restored, but as I am a farmer and have not been able to sell my property I must return to Minnesota and remain here until a buyer comes.

I have a good farm here of 120 acres, four miles from Braham, which I wish to sell for a reasonable price, if any one would buy a farm here.

Please
Charles Ekberg.

McIntosh, Minn., 11 Nov. 1907.

Last winter I spent three months in Cuba, in the Swedish colony at Bayate. When I left Minnesota on Nov. 19, it was full winter, but when I arrived in Cuba, after a six-day journey, it was as if I had come to another world. It was the height of summer there, everything was growing and flourishing.

The Swedish colony at Bayate, with its rich soil, is becoming a flourishing garden. The view is lovely, and several rivers cut through the country. As far as communications are concerned, they could not be better. The railroad between Havana and Santiago cuts through the colony, and it is only an hour's journey by rail to Santiago, Cuba's second city. When I was down there, many large steamers were loading, and the market for the products was good and the prices high. The Swedes in this colony have good prospects.

The climate is the best, with clean and light air, so that one breathes easily. I swam in the Cauto River both Christmas and New Year's. This was something new to me, who is a son of the North, to swim out at that time of the year. I enjoyed myself among my Swedish brothers in Bayate.

With great respect
Erik Erikson.

McIntosh, Minn., 12 Nov. 1907.

Last winter I spent three months in the Swedish colony at Bayate, Cuba, and I must confess that I have nothing but good things to say about Cuba. The climate was the best I have ever seen, and the soil around Bayate as well. I do not think its equal in fertility and productiveness can be found here in the States. For my part, I only long to return to Cuba, but cannot get away from here, since I have not been able to sell my farm here yet. I must therefore be in Minnesota and freeze this winter instead of cultivating my land at Bayate in mild summer weather. That all of Cuba, as well as the farmers in the Swedish colony at Bayate, have a good future, I am sure.

Regards
Thol Peterson.

Britton, S. D., 15 Nov. 1907.

Regarding Cuba, I must say that I found the conditions there much better than I had expected. Before I went there I had read a great deal about Cuba, and especially about the Swedish colony at Bayate, and I must confess that what has been written about it in newspapers and books is not an exaggeration, but rather the contrary. I was in Bayate in February and March of this year, and the coffee trees were then in full bloom. The bees were working just as they are here in the States in the summer, all the root vegetables were in growth, the grass was green, and the cattle were fat, and this despite the fact that there had been a drought for some months, which was said to have been the longest that had been experienced in Cuba for 40 years. Fresh tomatoes can be eaten in Cuba in the middle of winter. I had expected to find a lot of flies and mosquitoes, but they were so few that it is hardly worth mentioning.

I can in good conscience recommend Cuba and especially the Swedish colony at Bayate to my countrymen. If you have only a few hundred dollars to buy land for, you can get along well there, because you do not have to gather in the houses what you need for people and livestock during the long winter, as you do here. There is an eternal summer there and vegetation continues throughout the year.

Respectfully,
H. P. Strandberg.

Bayate, Cuba, 12 Nov. 1907.

I have now been in Cuba for a year, and have found the conditions far better than I had expected. I had, like many others, imagined that there would be unbearable heat here, preferably during the summer. I also had apprehensions about the rainy season, and about the much-feared fevers that are said to ravage southern countries, etc. But I was mistaken, for although the noonday sun is right over here, and somewhat to the north for some time in the summer, yet not a day has been too hot to work, and never has the heat been so oppressive as it sometimes was in the northwest. I have seen much more rain in the northwest, and there it could sometimes last all night and day for a week, but here it rains for at most two hours each day. The rest of the day is fine, and at night there is never any rain or thunderstorm. All the nights are the same, so fine and pleasant, that if we could, we would not want to change them. Storms do not occur either.

We are not troubled by the many diseases of the South. Everyone has been healthy. It seems as if this is the place to get healthy, for here are some who before they came here were tormented by rheumatism, heavy chest, etc., but the even climate and the fresh air here have made them young again. It is pleasant to see those who are over 70 years of age working with an ease as in younger days.

I would advise all those who wish to travel here, but who fear that it is impossible to live here, to come here and see. If you have been here once, you will know that our testimonials are honest and consistent with the truth.

To write about the country here, and what the soil can produce, is superfluous, for it is so well known, and as one can plant 12 months of the year, and almost everything grows, this is enough to convince the most doubtful that one can live here.

We who are here desire to see a large Swedish colony here at Bayate, and we wish everyone a welcome here to the land of eternal summer.

A. Sandelin.

Finley, N. D., Nov. 1907.

Concerning Bayate, Cuba, I may say that I have been there twice. Both times I have come there at Christmas time and left it the last days of June, to take care of my business in N. D. A better climate than that which I found there could not be wished for. Although I left it during the hottest season, I have found the heat more troublesome in the States than in Cuba.

Last summer I traveled through the greater part of Cuba, through Florida, the Southern States, Illinois, and Minnesota, but did not see a piece of land that could be compared in fertility with the land at Bayate until I came up to the Red River Valley. No one who has not been to Cuba has the remotest idea of how it grows down there, and it is not much use saying anything about it, for then one would not be believed.

Last spring I saw a mulberry tree, planted a year before from a small seedling sent by mail from the States, which was 10 or 12 feet high when I saw it, and had already borne two crops of berries. My land at Bayate I have planted partly with sugar cane and partly with grass. The immense growth of grass keeps the cattle fat all the year round, and the price of them is seldom less than 6 or 7 cents per pound, live weight, when here in Dakota we get

work many times more for the maintenance of the cattle, and yet have to sell them for 2 or 3 cents per pound.

The company has succeeded in obtaining an excellent site for the colony, both as to soil, location, and scenic beauty. No less than three major rivers and several streams and brooks flow through the colony in all directions, so that there is an abundant supply of grass and fresh water at all times of the year. The rivers are deep and have a good fall, so that all the rain water that does not sink into the ground flows down to them and flows away. Mosses and swampy places are not found on this land, but it is well drained and healthy. It is difficult for an American to understand why such large tracts of fertile land have been allowed to lie unused for so many years, ever since Columbus discovered the island several hundred years ago. Only the Cubans, oppressed by the Spanish government, can answer that question.

The busiest railway in Cuba runs through the entire colony from northwest to southeast, so that communications with the outside world are the best. It is about 400 miles to Santiago in the south and about the same distance to Antilla on the north side of the island. Antilla will probably become in time the largest and richest city in Cuba because of its location, good harbor and the great resources of the Santiago province. The largest sugar mill in existence is built in Antilla, and with its vast sugar cane plantations costs several million dollars.

Cuba's main industry has been, and partly still is, tobacco, sugar cane and cattle. But since the island became free, one can adopt several other branches of industry, which give ample compensation for one's labor. All kinds of tropical fruits and vegetables grow there in great abundance. Coffee grows excellently and brings a high price. It has a completely different aroma and is much stronger than what we northerners are accustomed to.

Chickens thrive well and do not cost much to keep, for they get most of their food outdoors all year round. There are no predators to pick them off, and all they need is a shed to stay in at night. The price of chickens in Santiago is not less than 75 cents apiece, and eggs are sold at 25 or 30 cents a dozen. Several of the colonists already have large flocks of chickens.

If it pays to raise cattle in the States, how much more will it pay in Cuba, where you do not have to mow any hay or build any expensive barns, but only put up a fence, which does not cost much. And you can have at least two if not three times as many cattle on the same amount of land there as in the States.

Now that there have been so many railroads in Cuba, lumber has come at a good price and is in strong demand. For example, ties are paid for at 75 cents a piece, and you don't have to drive them to any particular place, but just drop them off anywhere along the railroad.

For those who are willing and able to work, the Swedish colony at Bayate must offer good prospects, and I am convinced that one can more easily work one's way to independence there as an agriculturist than in any other place I know of.

Respectfully,
J. E. Erickson.

Bayate, Cuba, 12 Nov. 1907.

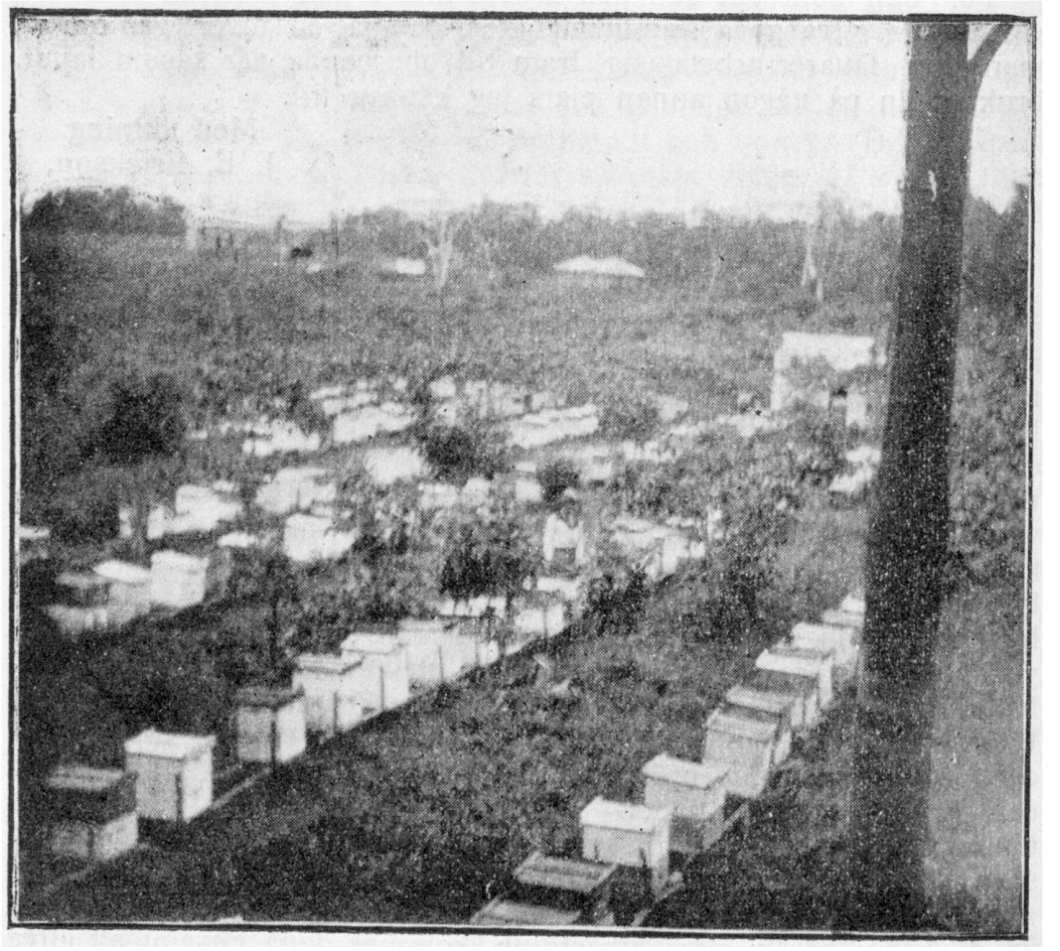
Early in January of this year, the undersigned put down his posts on section 43 here in the Bayate colony. In two months I cleared five acres of land, burned in April, and began planting in May. This clearing is now planted with corn, over 100 cassava plants, 700 bananas and plantains, many thousands of coffee plants, 50 orange trees, sweet potatoes, yams, vegetables, etc. I can state with satisfaction that everything is growing with a luxuriance that exceeds my wildest hopes. About 100 bushels of corn are ripe in the field, ready to be picked. A second crop of corn has been planted and has come up beautifully. Sweet potatoes and vegetables I have had for household needs, and from a small piece of 12 square rods planted with yams I can now dig up at least a ton, and they are now only half grown. Some of these tubers weigh 20 pounds and upwards. By the New Year I shall have many tons of cassava for myself and my livestock, and by next summer I shall have bananas and plantains in abundance. All that I have now enumerated are, however, only by-products, planted with coffee, and at the same time as they provide the necessary shade for the coffee bush they yield enough for my subsistence and considerably more. In three years, when the coffee begins to bear fruit, this alone will give me an income of at least $100.00 per acre.

Accustomed from the old country and from the States to work hard, I have not been idle here either, but my health has always been good. The greater part of the year the climate is pleasant, with clear weather and moderately warm. Since the summer, July-September, is the warmest time, and if one has the opportunity then to take life easy, it certainly does no harm.

Theodor Carlson.

Bayate, Cuba, 15 Nov. 1907.

The life of a settler has its difficulties here as well as elsewhere, but here we also have many advantages that are not offered to settlers elsewhere. Rich soil, good communications to the



Beekeeping Fields in Bayate with over 300 hives.

good market places and a healthy climate are necessary for a society to flourish. We certainly have these advantages here, and it is only a matter of making the right use of them.

For my part, I have experimented with a little of each, both of

domestic and imported products. In the main, they seem to be enjoying themselves. However, it seems to me most appropriate to try to imitate the Cuban planting methods as much as possible, for they grow only such things as will give a sure income-generating harvest.

With a friendly greeting to all countrymen, and with an appeal, especially to those who suffer from the harsh climate of the north, to come here where there is constant summer, is signed

August Swenson.

Bayate, Cuba, 14 Oct. 1907.

Perhaps it would interest some one or other to hear about the Swedish colony in Bayate, Cuba. The undersigned has been here since the beginning of March 1906. During this time I have been healthy and enjoying myself, and one cannot do anything else here, for a more pleasant climate can hardly be dreamed of. When I arrived here it was at the end of the dry season, and everything was dry, but the grass and plants were still green, and growing a little. Rain came from every one to three weeks, but not enough to moisten the dry soil. If the soil had been ploughed and fallow, this rain would have been enough to encourage the vegetation. In favorable years, corn can be planted with good advantage in the month of March on unploughed land, and on ploughed land you can plant at any time, but each kind of plant has its appointed time. The rainy season begins in May, and then everything grows so quickly that it is surprising.

Cassava is a good plant to grow. At the end of October last year, a couple of us planted a little more than an acre of it. It was, as we all know, an unusually dry time here last winter. However, this cassava grew from 1 to 3 feet high during the winter. It is now large and tall, from 7 to 10 feet, and so dense that it completely shades the ground. Cassava is planted with 5 to 6 feet between each plant, then it is advantageous to plant a row of corn between each cassava row. This makes it easier to keep the land clean, and also gives a small income from the land in a short time. Beans, peas, carrots, cabbage, etc., which we planted on plowed land after we planted the cassava, and which we watered a couple of times, bore a good harvest. There would be much to write about, but space does not allow more.

It will not be difficult to get the colony here at Bayate full of Americans and other people, but we wish that many Swedes would

come here. Therefore I urge all who intend to change their place of residence to inform themselves about the conditions here, and to buy land. In a short time it will probably be too late.

Respectfully
Emil Ternblom.

Bayate, Cuba, 14 Nov. 1907.

When I came here last May I became so fond of the much talked about island that I hastened to both buy land and build on the same and already in September I was able to bring here my family, who, like me, are extremely pleased, at least as far as the climate is concerned. Anything else I, as a beginner, cannot really say.

As my land was partly both cleared and planted with a little of each, such as coffee, bananas, pineapples, etc., I have some idea of the great variety of products that can be produced here. I myself have planted several crops, such as corn, beans, and a little of each in the way of vegetables, but of course I cannot yet decide what the soil is best suited for. However, I believe that the future of Cuba will be orange growing.

But let no one who intends to come to this wonderland believe that neither capital nor labor is needed here. Here, if anything, it is necessary to hold on and defy all obstacles.

Respectfully,
J. F. Jacobson.

Bayate, Cuba, Nov. 14, 1907.

I have been in Cuba a year and 9 months, and during that time I have kept posted to get all the information I could get, both from Cubans and from settlers from America, and I find that some make a success in Cuba and others make barely a living, but you find those everywhere who cannot make more than a living. As for myself I have great faith in Cuba, especially as a place where young people can get a start in the world, and as for us old people it is certain that we could not find a better one climate in which to spend our old days.

A. A. Engström.

Bayate, Cuba, Nov. 15, 1907.

I am a settler 60 years of age, and have lived at this place 20 months. With the help of a boy of mine, 17 years old, I have cleared 7 acres, and half of this is grubbed and cultivated. In garden not hired a day's work, except when putting up my dwelling house. Of these 7 acres 1 1/4 acres are planted to parana grass and will feed 2 animals the year around. About 2 acres are planted to bananas and plantains, two acres of garden and corn, and the balance to fruit trees.

For six months I have had all the bananas we have been able to to eat, and a surplus to sell and to feed the chickens with. The chickens are doing well and I have never lacked eggs for the table use. At the present time eggs are worth 30 cents a doz. Vegetables, such as cabbage, lettuce, beets, carrots, onions, beans of all kinds, peas, peanuts, and sweet potatoes, I have grown quantities of and found them to do as well here as in the States. Of beans you can grow 2 and 3 crops during the dry season, but they cannot be raised during the wet season. Sweet potatoes field immensely with but little labour. Irish potatoes also do well on certain soils, and keep very well, but do not field as much as in the States. Egg plants and tomatoes grow as well as anywhere. I have taken 15 pounds of artichokes from one single hill. Indian corn and broom corn give 2 or 3 crops a year according to season.

I have planted a good deal of fruit, and my grove contains more than 40 different varieties. From bananas, plantains, pine apples, mulberries, strawberries, figs, and one variety of citrus fruits; I have already had matured fruits, and the others are looking well. The figs and mullberries grow profusely, and I judge that the citrus fruits will be as productive as in Florida, but as to their shipping qualities I can not yet give any opinion. In garden grapes of several varieties and also peaches and apples, which all grow remarkably well, but have not yet borne any fruit. I also have several kinds of native fruits, such as alligator pears and mangoes. Between the banana rows I have planted coffee, and a year from now I expect to drink some of my own production.

The climate is all a person can wish for, but we have some draw-backs of another nature. For the first few years mosquitoes, gnats, and ants are pretty bothersome, and I for my part am a perfect tenderfoot when it comes to such pests, but as the clearing grows bigger and the soil is cultivated this nuisance disappears.

Snakes are plentiful, but harmless, except when they come around the chicken house. The high flat land is all clay soil and very sticky. It is therefore both difficult and expensive to make good roads through it.

I have now mentioned some of the good sides of living here at Bayate and also some of its draw backs. As far as my expectations and prospects are concerned I will have a fine home here in old age and good living with only a few hours work each day. Each and every one who reads this I cordially invite to come and see whether my statements are true or if they are misrepresentations.

N. O. Swanson

Bayate, Cuba, 12 Nov. 1907.

When the opportunity arises, I feel it my duty to give some information regarding my experience here in the Swedish colony at Bayate, which has not been very large, for it is only a year since I came here. Nevertheless, in this short time I have learned to see that farming will pay better here than in South Dakota, where I previously resided. For example, one could not grow corn on unplowed land there, but a year ago I cut down the forest here and burned the branches and rubbish, but left the stumps, and then planted corn, and got 30 bushels per acre. Now I have the second crop of corn in full bloom and one can expect three crops a year. My first crop of corn I sold for 89 cents per bushel, but sometimes corn is worth $1.00 per bushel. Other agricultural products give comparatively good results.

In Dakota I had about 100 cattle, but to feed them for the winter it took up the best time of the summer to gather hay. They also ate up all the feed that grew on the farm. In addition, disease often occurred among the cattle. For example, one year I lost a third of my herd. A good dairy cow was not worth more than $30.00 when it was to be sold. Cattle breeding here is quite different. My pasture, on which the cattle get all their food all year, runs down to the Cauto River, where they drink, and I have no other trouble with them than to milk them. The milk is worth 40 cents per gallon, and a dairy cow commands a price of $60.00. The cattle are all healthy, and keep fat and fine even during the

dry winter months. Last year during the dry season we saw in the newspapers how the cattle in the Havana area died by the thousands from hunger and thirst, while our cattle here were fattened for slaughter. Anyone who thinks of Cuba should come here to Bayate, for this is the richest soil in Cuba.

The health here has been exceptionally good since I came here, the children in particular have been much healthier here than they were in Dakota. To all fur-clad compatriots in the north I send a friendly welcome from the land of eternal summer, Cuba.

J. P. Nillson

Bayate, Cuba, 14 Nov. 1907

It is of great interest to me to give information to those who intend to travel to Cuba about my experience here in the Swedish colony at Bayate, about the land of the colony, the agriculture here, the sale of products, the climate, the situation and the state of health.

I dare say that there is no better land than what we have in this colony, and what is planted grows surprisingly well at all times of the year. Since everyone here is still a beginner, the Cuban method of hoeing to get rid of weeds has so far had to be used, but it is still better to cultivate the land here than in the States, and since the stumps are gone and machines and modern methods can be used, the income doubles.

We already have a fairly excellent outlet for our products here in Bayate, everything we have can be easily sold here. Moreover, the place is located between two good ports, Santiago and Antilla.

The climate is exceptionally fine, at least during the winter you could never wish for anything better. The heat is never as oppressive here as in the States, and I have seen worse rainfall in the States than here.

As to the state of health, I can say from my own experience that during the nearly 2 years that I have been here I have been healthier than I was during the 22 years that I lived in Dassel, Minnesota.

Olof Benson.

Bayate, Cuba, 16 Nov. 1907.

Now that winter has set in in the north, it will interest some to know how we are doing here in the sunny south. We find the climate excellent, and I believe that all who come here with the intention of making their own homes will find it very

more advantageous to live here than in the States in many respects. Everything grows much faster here than in the States. For example, we have fig trees here that are 8 months old, and these have now borne fruit for 2 months, and are still bearing. In this short time they have attained a height of 8 feet. Even peach trees grow more in a year here than they do in the States in 2 years.

Some believe that corn does not give a good return here during the summer, because there is too much rain, but I have raised 2 crops during the rainy season, and find that it gives a very good return.

Pigs and chickens have proved to be very profitable, considering how cheap they can be raised.

Finally, I would like to say to all who are thinking of getting a good home: come here to our Swedish colony at Bayate.

Oscar Lidgren.

Stephen, Minn., 20 Nov. 1907.

Regarding my opinion of Cuba and the impressions I received of this island during my stay in the Swedish colony at Bayate during the last winter, I would like to say that as regards the climate of Cuba, during the time I was there, the soil and vegetation, it was in every way satisfactory and beyond my expectations. I left Minnesota in its winter attire and arrived in Cuba about the middle of January. There I was met with the finest summer weather, and they were in full swing harvesting fruits and vegetables, such as “oranges”, “grapefruit”, “tomatoes”, “peppers”, “egg plants”, “pineapples”, etc., which were sent to New York and sold there at high prices during the winter months. I found the soil at the Swedish colony at Bayate particularly good and rich, which was a surprise to me. for I was prepared to find red sand and pine stumps, as informed persons who apparently did not know the matter had told me it would be. Instead it was black soil on a yellow clay bottom, mixed for the most part with fine limestone about the size of a pea. What this soil can produce without any fertilizer one had only to cast a glance around at what was planted in the colony to see. I saw sugar cane 9 months old, as thick as an arm, weighing 10 to 11 pounds each, planted and growing between the stumps after the forest had been cut down and without the slightest cultivation of the soil. Corn grew under the same conditions and gave a plentiful yield. I

saw common potatoes, sweet potatoes, cassava, yams, carrots, turnips, cabbages, beans and peas, etc., all of the best quality, all of which grew on the land within the colony at Bayate.

In the northern States and Canada, poor people in the days of settlement had to make mounds of earth for themselves and their cattle, to protect themselves against the harsh winter, and yet they worked their way up to prosperity in time. How much easier would it be to come to prosperity and independence in such a place as Cuba, where one can live in a tent if one wishes and the cattle can go out and eat green grass all the year round? My idea is that Cuba is a country of the future, but what I would like to see is that it should be united with the United States, and that American principles and improvements should be introduced, and the customs duties on imports and exports should be abolished.

Finally, I only want to say that I traveled to Cuba to see for myself what Cuba was like and what the country looked like that I had bought in the Swedish colony at Bayate, and the above is briefly some of my observations during my stay there for a period of nearly two months. Much more could be said, but I will leave that to those who have been there longer.

Respectfully
G. L. Leisner.

Mayari, Cuba, July 30, 1907.

In reply to your inquiry I beg to State, that I consider the property in the vicinity of Bayate the best in Cuba as regards fertility of soil and location for colony. It has an abundance of fresh water and the land is well drained. It is happily situated as regards Communications, being only a short distance by railroad from Nipe Bay on one hand and Santiago on the other, and from each port there are direct lines of steamers to New York.

The soil is adapted to the growing of tropical fruits, such as oranges, lemons, coffee, cacao, and bananas, and vegetables, besides corn and tobacco and also cane. I have faith in the future, and for that reason I purchased a tract there, after a residence in Cuba of 8 years and familiarity with the whole island. There is no question as to success, with a climate that is ideal and healthful, a soil unsurpassed for fertility. It only remains for willing and earnest workers to profit by the wealth that nature has given.

Yours sincerely
Edgar W. McCormack, Civil Engineer.

Mr. McCormack, who is an American surveyor, became acquainted with our country while working there. He had been busy surveying for eight years and in all parts of Cuba, but he had never bought a piece of land. He was so taken with the Bayate tract, however, that he immediately purchased 300 acres. He selected the thickest forest he could find, and during the summer cut down 100 acres of the forest and planted grass there at a cost of $16.00 per acre. He could have bought good, open grassland elsewhere for $10.00 per acre, but preferred, as he said, to pay well and get something he could rely on in all weathers. This fall he has purchased 100 acres more, and a friend of his in New York now has an option on 1,000 acres and intends to begin work in the New Year on a tropical plantation at a cost of $50,000. Mr. McCormack intends to plant 60 acres of oranges this winter, and in the last letter we received from him he stated that he had sold all his property in Havana and wished to purchase several hundred acres more near Bayate.

Bayate, Cuba, Nov. 1907.

I came to Cuba last winter to seek relief from an old catarrh, and find with satisfaction that I have come to the right place. The even temperature and pure air do not seem to leave much to be desired by those suffering from catarrh or rheumatism. For the rest, I can say that during nearly half a century of living in many settlements both in the north and south of the United States, I have never seen anything where the settler has had such advantages and prospects for the future as here. Although 70 years old, I have been at work every day since I came here. The heat is here, both summer and winter, fairly equal. On Midsummer's Day this year the thermometer showed 74 degrees in the shade at 12 noon. I have never suffered from the heat, nor have I seen any of the fevers so dreaded in the north. Flies and mosquitoes never bother me as much as they did up in Michigan, where I last lived.

To all who desire a good climate or want to work their way up as a farmer, I would say come here and see the riches of nature.

A. Lindholm,
Swedish Lutheran pastor.

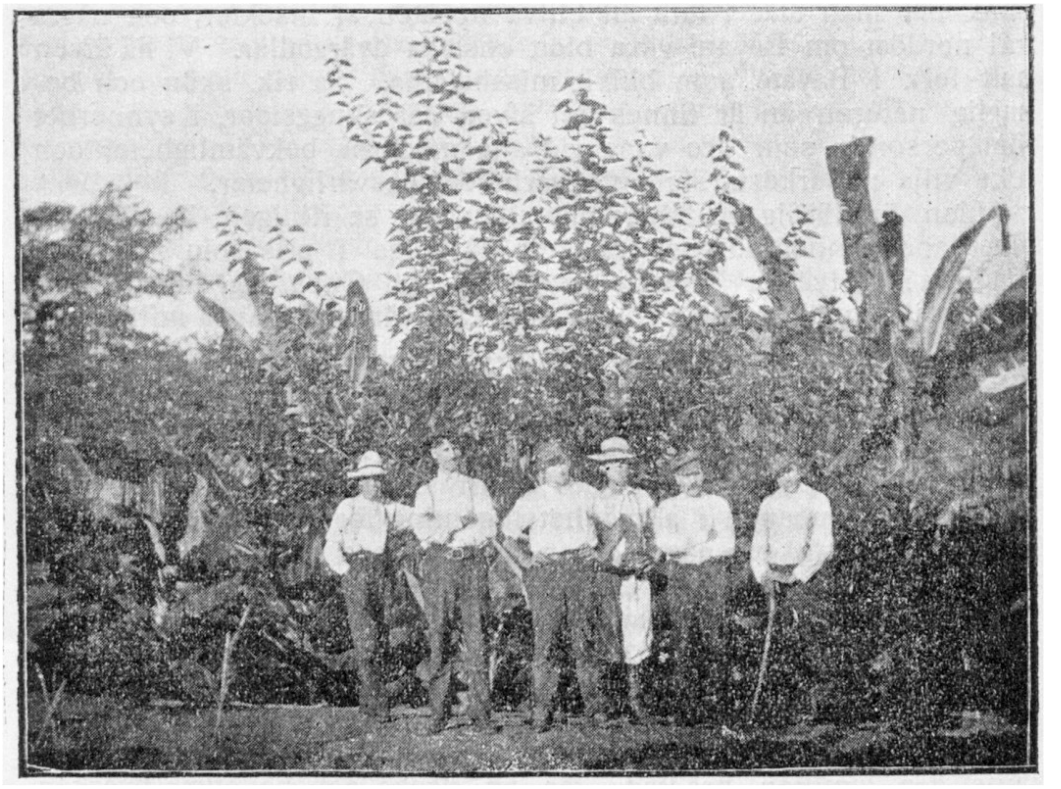
Minneapolis, Minn., 30 Nov. 1907.

As I have seen more of Cuba than anyone in Bayate, it seems to me my duty to say a few words. I need not confirm the above descriptions. I only wish to point out that what has been said about Bayate cannot be applied to the whole island. One need not go more than 250 miles north before one comes to lowlands where one is in danger of being eaten by insects, and a few miles northeast of Bayate only a few dwarf pines grow. We have also had people in Bayate who have become dissatisfied. However rich, beautiful and pleasant nature may be, there are also dark sides, especially to people who are accustomed to all modern conveniences and do not want to submit to the hardships of settler life.

One is ready to ask: when everything grows so abundantly, why are all agricultural products twice as high in price as in the United States? Why are eggs, chickens, pork, meat, corn, flour, vegetables, etc., worth many millions, imported annually into Cuba? We must remember that on land and in a climate where rich harvests can be produced, weeds also flourish, and it takes work to keep them in check. Moreover, since one can live in the Cuban way without any real work, and since it is more pleasant to sit in the shade and enjoy a good cigar than to work, the native Cuban generally produces nothing for the market. The Cuban builds himself a hut in a few days with palm leaves for a roof and palm bark for walls. In a week he cuts down an acre of forest and plants sweet potatoes, bananas, vegetables, etc. A few chickens and pigs grow up with the children, but get their food in the forest. No clothing is needed or used for the human members of the family until they are 5 or 6 years old, when nakedness is covered as cheaply as possible. A bunch of bananas or plantains provides the family with bread for a week and requires neither grinding nor baking. Several hundred such bunches are obtained annually from an acre. By a little care a score of other dishes can be obtained almost as cheaply. The forest is so dense that the sun never reaches the ground, and consequently there are no weeds. By taking care not to let weeds in, such a small plantation is kept clean with little labor. Ploughing and harrowing are out of the question. If the weeds become too strong, a new hole is made in the forest, and in a few years you will not know where the old plantation was. For centuries accustomed to a government that took everything that could be turned into money through taxation, it is not surprising that the Cuban

continue their easy lives even now that these tax burdens have been removed.

A large number of Americans and Swedes, who have been spoiled in the cities, are totally unfit as farmers, but demand all the conveniences. I have lived in thatched houses in Sweden and in dugouts in America, frozen noses, ears,



Picture from the plantations in Bayate.
The tall tree is a mulberry tree, only 18 months old.

fingers and toes in the Minnesota snowstorms, and worked like a slave in the fields in 100-degree heat, all this between times of even harder work at the book; and it seems sad to me to see young people who only think of living comfortably for the day in the larger cities.

For success in agriculture, the following are required: 1. A healthy climate, 2. Rich soil, 3. Sufficient rain and sunshine, 4. Good communications and a good market for the produce. If these conditions are present, a good farmer must make progress. He who will not work and give up makes no progress in any field.

1. Bayate is situated nearly 500 feet above the sea, which is 300 miles distant to the north and south. A cold current from the Arctic Ocean and fresh winds from the North Atlantic bring coolness, and the Gulf Stream carries away the excess heat. Thus there is always clean, fresh sea air, and unbearable heat or sunstroke never occurs. Yellow fever need not be considered, for the United States controls it as well as the island as a whole. Malaria (chills) is not so severe in Cuba as, for example, in Illinois. The first year, when our settlers lived largely in tents, there were 4 cases. The last year only one family, the J. P. Johnsons, has had trouble, due to a puddle of water formed by the railroad embankment where their house and sawmill were built. Mr. Johnson has now moved a short distance, and is in good health. Persons suffering from rheumatism, catarrh, and cough get better there. The first year there were several cases of diarrhea, which have also disappeared since the houses were built. I was there from October to the end of May of this year, and during all this time there was no need for a doctor among the 90 Swedes who were there.

2. The soil has been described by others, and no one has seen better.

3. During the rainy season from May to November it rains about an hour every other day. The rest of the time one sees Cuba's clear moon or the friendly sun and blue sky. During the dry season from December to April it rains about every other week, but the abundant dew keeps everything planted in good soil in good growth. Tobacco and vegetables grow best then, and sugar cane is harvested during the dry season.

4. With a railway leading through the colony and connecting it with Havana and with ocean steamers at Santiago and Antilla going direct to New York and Europe, the traffic connections could hardly be improved. The market prices are now, except for raw sugar, about twice as high for all agricultural products as in the States. This is due to the lack of enterprise of the Cubans, but due to steamboat communications and the proximity to the world market, prices are always higher in Cuba than in the interior of America. Livestock also command better prices because of better hulls. When the Panama Canal is completed, eastern Cuba will be the route for all the ships of the world.

As for land prices, they are now no more than a tenth of what they will be. In Egypt, land has risen to $250.00 per acre. In Egypt, land has risen to $250.00 per acre since the English took charge of it, and in the Hawaiian Islands no cultivable land can be obtained for less than two or three hundred dollars per acre. In California, which is several thousand miles further from the world market than Cuba, it is not uncommon for land to be sold for five hundred to one thousand dollars per acre. Cuba has no more good land than could be contained in one of our larger counties, and when, shortly, the annexation of Cuba to the United States is completed and all the sugar production will be done there and all the tropical products, together with winter vegetables, will be grown there for the great and rich American nation, then Cuba will experience a “boom” the like of which even America has never seen before. Here in the northwest we find that of the thousands of Scandinavian farmers who have become rich, not one in a hundred has made his fortune in agriculture alone. They have bought their farms cheaply, and these have risen in price, often 1000%, and he who is now to start with little capital has no future prospects here. Eastern Cuba is here in the same position as the Mississippi Valley 50 years ago, with the only difference that because of Cuba's small area, development and the rise in prices will proceed immensely more rapidly.

Alfred Lind.

The Livestock Industry in Cuba.

Cattle raising is one of the most profitable occupations that the farmer in Cuba can engage in. This industry is quite different in Cuba from that in the North. 1. The cattle feed themselves outdoors all year round, and no winter supplies need to be gathered. 2. No houses are used or needed for the cattle. 3. Prices are about twice as high as in the States. 4. The cattle are always fat. The Guinea and Parana grasses, which are used for grazing, must be cultivated, but once in growth they are difficult to eradicate. Parana grass grows only on rich land, and gives an immense yield. It tastes so good to the cattle that they pass by green corn fields and leave them untouched when Parana grass is in sight. Even pigs and chickens eat it.

For the fattening of pigs, corn, “pumpkins”, “squash”, yams, cassava, etc. are used. Cassava is said in Florida to produce pork for one cent per pound, since it is not possible to fatten pigs on corn for less than three to four cents per pound. We are now experimenting with “artichokes”

for hog feed, and they seem to yield several thousand bushels per acre per year. Alfalfa also grows there. Seeing how fast and abundantly the figs grow, one of our settlers intends to try to fatten hogs with figs.

Last winter experiments were made with sunflowers. Each flower grew from 1 to 2 feet wide and seldom yielded less than a pound of ripe seed, which the chickens ate greedily. Several hundred chickens have already been shipped from Bayate to Santiago, and they have never been sold for less than 75 cents each.

Many Americans are engaged in stock raising in Cuba, and are usually not satisfied with less than 50 per cent per annum on their capital employed. Such profits cannot be relied upon in the long run, but this industry is always more profitable than in the States, where stock raising is the chief source of income for the farmer.

Concerning pig-raising in Cuba, we take the liberty of quoting in translation the following statement by Professor N. S. Mayo, Director of the Animal Industry Department of the Cuban Agricultural Experiment Station.

“The pig is one of the most profitable domestic animals in Cuba, and the raising of pigs also requires comparatively little capital. Yet, strangely enough, pig-raising is a matter which American farmers in Cuba generally seem to overlook. If a suitable site is available, however, the pig will probably give a greater return on both capital and labor than any other domestic animal. Pigs always command a high price in the Havana market, about 9 cents per pound, American coin, live weight, and at present the domestic production is not sufficient to meet the demand. Many live pigs are imported from the States for slaughter.

“Pigs are very easy to raise, and are very little troubled by disease. The only notable disease that occurs is a swine fever which the Cubans call ‘pintadilla,’ but it is not common, and with a little caution there is little danger of this disease, much less than in the States.

“There are different kinds of pigs in Cuba. The common Cuban pig, the ‘criolla,’ is a kind of the so-called ‘razorback’ pigs which are so common in the Southern States, but they are hardy animals and very good at finding their own food. Another kind is called the ‘gallego.’ These are short, thick animals which get fat quickly, but they are very small. The best kind are the so-called ‘chinos’ (Chinese). These are large, black pigs, but they are not as good as the best American kinds. The American breeds do well in Cuba, except the whites, and the only fault with them is that the sun can

inflict wounds on their backs. ‘Berkshire’ pigs thrive well in Cuba, both thoroughbred and mixed with Cuban breeds. ‘Tamworth’, an English breed, do very well. They have better fertility than ‘Berkshires’, but do not get so fat. The demand in Cuba, however, is not for fat pork.”

It is very common throughout the country in Cuba to see pigs tied with a rope around their necks near the huts of the poorer classes. On the larger farms the pigs are allowed to roam freely in the forests and seek their own food, which consists mainly of the nuts of the royal palm, which are very nutritious and fat-forming, although the ice is loose. In certain less inhabited parts of the island the pigs run wild, and are often hunted as game. In such regions, however, wild dogs are also often found, which attack and eat the suckling piglets. The Cubans claim that only the native sow is capable of defending his pigs against these wild dogs. It is interesting to accompany a Cuban when he seeks out his semi-wild pigs in the forest. He sets off with a small sack of corn and armed with his “machete,” which he uses to cut a path for himself and his horse through the thick tropical thickets and creepers, and accompanied by several large dogs. The dogs roam the forest until they find some pigs, when they begin to bark. The pigs then run together in a herd, the smaller ones in the middle and the old ones in a circle around them to keep the dogs away from the piglets. When the Cuban hears the dogs barking, he rides to the place from which the barking is heard, calls the dogs back, scatters a little corn on the ground for the pigs, and continues the hunt for the remainder of his herd. Generally the pigs remain in certain places in the forest, and in this way the Cuban manages to keep a fairly good account of them.

Pigs breed very rapidly in Cuba, and the sow generally has two litters in less than a year, usually about five litters in two years, and very few of the piglets die, unless some inclement weather causes loss, as is the case in the States.

The meat of the Cuban pig is very sweet, and is a delicacy highly prized by the Cubans. Roast pig may even be considered a national dish in Cuba. A feast or “mastar” in the country is not complete without this dish, and on Christmas Eve every family, if possible, has a roast pig on the table, just as the American has his turkey on Thanksgiving.

When a pig is slaughtered in the country and cannot be eaten all while it is fresh, everything that is to be eaten is cut up and put into a pot.

is made into a continuous slab about an inch thick. This long slab is then hung on a pole like a sausage and smoked over burning guava wood and leaves. After it has been properly smoked, it is hung up for future use and will stand as long as possible.

The conditions for profitable pig breeding in Cuba are sufficient king palms, sufficient pasture, shade and good water. Corn, cassava, sorghum and sugar cane are also used for pig feed.

Political conditions in Cuba.

Regarding the political situation in Cuba, all experts, both there and in America, agree that Cuba must be united with the United States. The time for annexation is not yet determined, but it is assumed that it will take place next year after the presidential election in the States. Five thousand American soldiers are there now, and an American, Governor Magoon, governs with a power limited only by President Roosevelt. However, he rules to the complete satisfaction of the Cubans. About 200 million American capital is invested in Cuba in the hope of a speedy annexation, and if a new revolution is needed to bring this about, no shortage of funds will be forthcoming. Moreover, even the intelligent part of the Cubans, with the exception of professional job hunters, wish that a speedy annexation might be brought about. Now $30,000,000.00 is paid annually in duties on Cuban agricultural products imported into the States, or about $30.00 per acre in annual tax to the United States on the cultivated land of Cuba, or rather on its surplus, for nearly two persons live on each cultivated acre.

A Cuban revolution is not so dangerous as a strike in the States, provided that no American soldiers are involved in the affair, and that the Cubans know enough to keep quiet. During the revolution last year, 500 rebels were encamped at Bayate for a whole month, but did not harm so much as a chicken; and during the whole revolution no more human lives were lost than would normally be lost in a large American city. The Cubans are extremely peaceful and accommodating.

In his message to Congress at its meeting in December 1907, President Roosevelt said regarding the situation in Cuba:

“A year ago in consequence of a revolutionary movement in Cuba, which threatened the immediate return to chaos of the island,

the United States intervened, sending down an army and establishing a provisional government under Gov. Magoon. Absolute quiet and prosperity have returned to the island because of this action.

"Cuba is at our doors. It is not possible that this nationshould permit Cuba again to sink into the condition from which we rescued it."

I had decided to go to Cuba, even before I knew anything that there was a Swedish colony there, and when I found out about it, I went there and have now bought land and settled here. I have lived in several different places in both Europe and America and generally have been well off everywhere but hardly anywhere better than here. A beautiful nature and a very good climate combined with an extraordinarily fertile soil mean that every person who has the desire and aptitude for living the life of a farmer must be well content here. The view towards the mountain range in the north and over the rivers that flow through the colony is very beautiful. — Notwithstanding that it is now the summer season, the heat is not felt more bothersome here than it is in southern and central Sweden or in the mountain valleys of Norrland during the height of summer. As for the soil, it must already be sufficiently well known that "everything grows in Cuba", for I would need to say something about it.

I have met a good number of the Swedish colonists here and find them all to be very sympathetic and accommodating and in this respect standing considerably above the average level of Swedes. They all seem to be "well on the move", each in his own field, and those who have been here a couple of years are very well-off. It is not difficult to export what is produced, for it is only a 2-hour journey to Santiago, and besides, everything is bought up by the businessmen here at good prices.

I suppose that here, as elsewhere, there are people who feel dissatisfied and disappointed, for it is the case everywhere in the world that not all people thrive under the same conditions. For my part, I believe that I have found here the best opportunity to create a future life for myself through work and thoughtfulness, which

corresponds to my wishes. And I believe that most people who come here will think as I do; they will prefer the wonderful climate of Cuba and the beautiful views that are everywhere in Bayate, to the oppressive heat or biting cold of the North American continent and the narrow views between the skyscrapers of the big cities, and they will certainly also find that by persistent work and with a small capital to begin with, they can create an independent life here and in time even a fortune. As for the later, I quote as my opinion what a Swedish-Finnish colonist said to me the other day: “You will see, Mr. Wildner, that in ten years from now all the colonists here will be rich.”

Bayate in June 1908.
Per Wildner.

It is a great pleasure for me to be able to communicate in a few lines to people who are thinking of traveling to Cuba my experiences about conditions in Sweden, America and Cuba.

In the autumn of 1892 I sold my property in Stugun parish, Jämtland, and then made several trips to central and southern Sweden to see if I could find a place that was more valuable for my future than the one I had sold. I found the soil to be excellent, but the taxes incredibly high. For example: I intended to buy 1/2 mantal from P. A. Johansson, Kumla, Stockholm County. But when I found that on only 27 acres of land that he had, there were such enormous taxes — only a basic tax of 500 kronor — it was no deal.

In the spring of 1893 I traveled to America. During the summer I traveled quite extensively, both west and south, to see where it would best suit me. I then found a place in Cambridge, Minnesota, where I lived with my family for 12 years. I had a fine farm there, nicely situated and good in many ways. But the winters were quite difficult and long, so that for me, who had 12 people in my family, there were quite large expenses, quite high taxes, and always warm and expensive clothes to keep out the cold, a changeable climate, so that illness in the family was quite common, doctors' and medical bills quite high.

A little over 3 years ago I found out that there was land to buy in Cuba. I went there to see how things were there and found it many times better than I ever dared to believe, and I was the first to buy land in the Swedish colony at Bayate, and I will never regret moving here. I bought 160 acres at that time for 25 dollars per acre. Now my land is worth exactly double. But anyone who has once become the owner of a piece of land as rich in vegetation as here is probably going to want to keep it, when you consider the eternal summer, the rich soil on which crops are planted and harvested all year round, and the most wonderful climate you can imagine.

The state of health is always good, and if there is a need for hospital care, it is free. I met a Swedish sea captain who took a sick person to the hospital in Santiago. He said he had traveled the world, but he had never seen such humane consideration in such cases, and he gave Cuba good credit. Add to this the fact that the country is tax-free, and one can see Cuba's advantages over other countries without glasses. The far-sighted millionaires in America prove this by the construction of the railroad out to the sea to Key West, so that Cuba can be reached in just a few hours by sea.

There would be much to write about, but this must suffice. Should anyone wish to be enlightened in any particular respect, I will conscientiously answer questions.

Bayate, 3 June 1908.
J. P. Johnson.

Honorable countrymen!

As one of the more respected members of this colony intends to visit his and our fatherland this summer, I too would like to send a greeting to my countrymen in the North. We have here a colony that is well-off and consists of healthy and hardworking people of all ages. Most of them have once broken their home in America, worked up large and small farms, which they have now sold and come over to Cuba to start anew, and as it looks from the prosperity with good results, and those who came first have had several harvests of corn and potato fruits which occur in abundance. The beginning has been made with oranges, and they promise well, as well as with coffee, which most of them get on their own turf after a while.

Nature gives us more advantages here than perhaps any other country, but we must learn to make the most of them. With the natives, who are mostly black, we are on good terms. They are more intelligent than we could believe. Equality exists more here between rich and poor than in Sweden. Our colony celebrated its third anniversary on May 14th of this year. We are now about 200 members and are, with few exceptions, satisfied with the land and people of Cuba.

Therefore, I would like to urge you, all compatriots, to now, while the opportunity is given to get a piece of land for a reasonable price, to secure a home of your own, which, as the saying goes, is worth its weight in gold. — The hotel, store and sawmill are owned by compatriots, and many have cut timber on their land and built their own house for a reasonable price, and that in a short time after arriving here. We have built a schoolhouse, and in the fall we will receive from the government free teachers in the Spanish and English languages. The railway runs right through our country and the station is in the center of it, and we are situated so that we have a connection in the north with Antilla and in the south with Santiago, respectively 40 and 35 miles (English).

With a friendly greeting and an invitation to visit and become members of our colony, I write

Bayate, Cuba, 5 June 1908.

With the highest respect

J. A. Nyström.

Cuba's main industry is agriculture. Of the variety of products that Cuba's fertile soil produces in abundant quantities, sugar and tobacco come first. These have for many decades constituted the island's principal export articles. Cuba's proximity to the world's best market, the United States, has, however, given rise to other branches of agriculture also beginning to flourish. Tropical fruits and vegetables are now shipped there in large quantities and fetch higher prices than those coming from other places.

Now that peace and security of life and property prevail in Cuba, its delightful climate, rich soil, and advantageous location can no longer be ignored. These great advantages have also led

sharp-sighted and enterprising people to buy up a large portion of the best land. The Americans have previously set a good example, but the Swedes have also known how to take advantage of the favorable opportunity, and there are now a few hundred of them on the island. Most of these are settled here in Bayate, situated on the railway that cuts through the island in the east and west, and midway between the two ports of Antilia and Santiago de Cuba.

Agriculture in all its forms is carried on here with great success, and where three years ago there was only a single impenetrable virgin forest, there are now swaying sugarcane fields, fragrant orange groves, beautiful banana plantations and lush pastures. A willing market is always ready to swallow up whatever we have to sell.

Bayate, 4 June 1908.
Arthur Engström.

Bayate, 2 June 1908.

Having become more familiar with the conditions here in Cuba, I would like to inform my compatriots about them in a few lines. First, I must emphasize that the ignorance, even among those from whom one might expect otherwise, about the conditions here is quite great. Yellow fever and all other diseases are, according to their thinking, everyday guests here, combined with unbearable heat, rebellions, wars, etc. And it is not surprising that, for example, many returning soldiers, sailors, and other people, in order to make themselves important, spread such rumors. I will leave unsaid what possible and impossible rumors the undersigned has heard both in Europe and in America. In my opinion, Cuba is the best country an emigrant can find. The climate is the best, good land can be obtained cheaply, although it will not last long, as land prices rise unusually rapidly. This is particularly the case in our Swedish-Lutheran colony in Bayate. A few words briefly about this colony and how the undersigned had the good fortune to end up here.

For nearly seven years I traveled in the United States, first in the eastern, then in the southern and western states, seeking a home where I could be happy. In California I thought I had found what I was looking for and bought a few acres of land, for which the price was quite high, as is the case with all land in this state. Two and a

half years stay there was enough, and with Californian rheumatism in my body I left this in books and newspapers for the land praised by the skies. During my stay in the unbearably hot Arizona I risked buying land from “The Swedish Land and Colonization Co,” according to an advertisement, after which I moved here, reluctantly accompanied by my wife, who had received their opinion of Cuba from friends in America. Great was my surprise when I found that I had acquired the best land anyone could wish for. I am as content as never before here, and who, who has looked around a little, would be in this healthy and fruitful land, haunted by no frosts. To my wife's American friends I can say that she immediately became so fond of the country that, although she had always previously advised her relatives not to come to the States, she has now urged them to come here, with the result that they have also already bought land in Bayate. For my part, I do not have enough words to properly praise this country, its climate, fertility, etc., but only want to say that you will search in vain for a healthier, more fertile and other advantageous country. — Therefore, I would like to urge all enterprising and enterprising people, but especially farmers, for these are needed above all here, to provide themselves with land in time, for here one first begins to understand what it is to live. Everyone who has lived here for a while is satisfied and assures that they would not wish for anything better. True enough, there is always some grumbler, and they are mostly those who are never satisfied because they have experienced so little of life, or even if the man has been married, the wife, having been forced to part with her beloved bureau and piano stool, has made the man impatient by her constant nagging, so that this kind of people have moved back, and no harm has been caused thereby. Here, as has been said, quick, strong people with little capital are needed, and everything else will go like a dance. You do not stay here in Bayate, tens of miles from the railway, but it is, so to speak, at the door. Nor should you think, “the journey will be expensive and getting everything in order will cost a lot, and if illness occurs, the rest will go to that.” This is not the case as far as illness is concerned, for I can, with the bandage still around my head, as this is written, inform everyone that in Santiago de Cuba, about 35 miles by rail from Bayate, we have one of the best hospitals. There the first question is not whether you can pay, for everything is free. Skilled doctors and the most tender care, that is what you get there. An ear disease contracted in the States was the reason for my six weeks' stay there. — As for “The Swedish Land and Colonisation Co.” I can say that this is the first honest Co. that I have

met. They sell their land cheaply, in every way they try to facilitate and promote the colonists' enterprises, so that if anyone intends to come here, turn with full confidence to the said Co.

Bruno Cayan,
colonist in Bayate.

Bayate, Cuba, 2 June 1908.

Concerning the Swedish colony here, I can say that here is an excellent climate, and as far as vegetation is concerned, there is nothing that hinders it. The soil is rich, very rich. But the settler has little trouble to meet even here, before stumps and logs are cleared away, so that people who come from large cities and bump their toes against the roots, become a little dissatisfied, but those who have been accustomed to the Dakota snowstorms, consider it pleasant. For my part, I cannot complain. What we call winter in Dakota is unknown here. It is the finest time that can be desired. When you can swim all winter in an open river, no one can complain. If the summer rains a bit, then there is vegetation and 2 harvests a year of many things. People look happy and friendly.

I remain respectfully
Edward Carlström,
Bayate, Oriente, Cuba.

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Göteborg, 30 June 1908.

From the so-called reviews of the book, one can form an idea of Cuba, although not complete. But it should convince even the most skeptical that Cuba is a country where industrious Swedes can create a home and a future for themselves, better than in most other places.

The undersigned has his home in the Swedish colony of Bayate, Cuba, and has resided there for over three years and can attest that those who manage manage well. All attest that a better climate, location or richer soil could not be wished for and for security in political terms we have the guarantee of the United States. But we have found the Cuban people very accommodating and friendly in general, so in this respect we cannot be anything but satisfied.

I urge no one to leave a good and satisfactory home. But to those who have decided to travel abroad to settle down in agriculture or gardening, I may say: *why not travel to Cuba*, or, in case you cannot travel there now, why not immediately secure a piece of land among the Swedes there, before the prices become too high? The United States has hitherto been the promised land of emigrants, and many have there made a good living. But this has not always been an easy matter, quite the opposite. I myself have been there for eleven years, and know well the life of a settler and its hardships. It is clear that the poor cannot get by without work in Cuba either, but it is certainly easier to get around, where nature itself is so much more favorable.

Families willing to work, who have too little capital to support themselves after arrival, after the land has been paid for or part of it, can obtain contracts for clearing land and planting sugar cane, and in this way can earn their living and save a tidy sum for future needs.

Many inquiries have recently been received from Sweden, regarding conditions in Cuba, and as I will be staying here during July, August and September, this summer, I have been asked to handle the Land Company's business here.

Letters will be answered if you address them to F. J. Peterson, Olofstorp. Visitors can meet me every Saturday between 9—12 a.m. at Postgatan 47, Göteborg. A good hotel is in the same building, 2 floors up.

Persons intending to visit Cuba should register before 20 Sept., in order to travel in good company.

After 20 Sept. of this year, inquiries, etc., should be addressed to F. J. Peterson, Bayate, Cuba, or to the company's office, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Yours sincerely,
F. J. Peterson.

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